

11-24-63
at 4:15 PM

I was in the group of Detectives under Captain Jones & Lt. Smart today 11-24-63 at about 11:30 A.M. or a little later. The group was to assist in keeping Press men & Photographers back while Capt. Fritz and his men brought Lee Harvey Oswald down from the City Jail to a waiting armored truck, waiting at the top of the basement ramp. The Dallas Sheriff's Office was waiting with the armored truck to transfer Oswald to the County Sheriff's Office for confinement. I was standing at the north West Corner of the driveway opening in the basement approximately 26 ft. East of the Jail Office door. As Capt. Fritz came out of the Jail door and came East toward the parking area in the basement. He was followed closely by Lee Harvey Oswald with Detectives holding both arms & other Detectives immediately behind Oswald. As I saw Capt. Fritz and then looked at Oswald and Detectives holding & following him, they reached a point just past the corner where they would turn right to go up ramp approx. 75 ft to the waiting armored car. I was looking to the right back toward Jail Office & hall in front of the Jail Office, at this time I heard a loud noise like a gun firing or a firecracker. I never saw anyone as I was looking right & the sound was muffled as if it was a gun jammed close to someone & fired. As I looked back left just or eight Detectives or more grabbed a man & whistled him to the floor. I did not touch him as there was so many officers on him already. The officers carried the suspect back to the Jail Office. During this time I was watching press men & photographers to keep down any interference. I & most officers just stayed in immediate area & tried to keep anyone from leaving. I then went to Jail Office door & kept unauthorized people out & as I looked in I saw the Suspect. Lying on the floor, being held by police. I guarded the Jail door until they took Oswald out to a waiting ambulance in this same basement driveway. I saw Oswald on the stretcher carried from the Jail Office to the waiting ambulance. I remained in the basement & on orders from Capt. Jones & Lt. Smart checked everyone coming or going for the next one to two hours. I never saw the Suspect or the gun before the shot was fired, then the officers covered the Suspect & took him to Jail Office. I never saw the gun after it was fired but tried to keep press & all back so the officers could handle Suspect & Oswald. This is all I know or saw.

James L. Watson, City Detective
no. 631 11-24-63 at 4:00 PM